



THE UTAH

A PUBLICATION OF THE UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

VETERANSVOICE

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

GARY R. HARTER
*Executive Director, Utah Department
of Veterans and Military Affairs*

Hopefully everyone had a great Summer! We in the Department have been very busy serving you. As this issue of the *Veterans Voice* goes to print, it is the time when schools are just getting back into session for their Fall terms. Consistent with that, we are focusing this issue on education and training. Veterans, military, and their family members are fortunate to have a wide variety of benefits available to them to go to school. Thus, we thought it would be a good idea to hear from a number of the institutions where they attend, and hear about the programs they have in-place and what services they have available to assist our Veterans and military personnel.

There are approximately 8,700 Veterans and 450 family members using federal education benefits at 95 institutions across our great State. Additional Veterans and military

either pay on their own or are using state and other benefits. When you think about it, that is truly amazing. The military prides itself in service members being well trained to perform their missions under the most demanding circumstances. It is great to see that so many Veterans continue that drive for education and training after, or in some cases in between, deployments.

What is also great to see is the tremendous work happening across the state to ensure Veterans, military, and family members are successful in their educational pursuits. Many



FOCUSING ON EDUCATION & TRAINING

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WORLD WAR II/KOREAN WAR • VIETNAM WAR • COLD WAR/PEACETIME • GULF WAR/OIF/OEF • FAMILY





DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

of our schools have Veterans Student Centers that either provide services directly or connect Veterans to a wide variety of them. I have visited many of them and they are vibrant, welcoming, and tremendously successful. The two newest centers are at the Davis Applied Technology College, which opened in August, and Westminster College, which will open in September. I commend all of the directors, staff, and volunteers of all of the centers for their work and tireless efforts. Well done!

On another note, I just recently returned from a community / business leader trip coordinated by the 419th Fighter Wing (Air Force Reserve) to visit the 10th Air Force Headquarters



in Fort Worth, Texas, and to tour the Lockheed Martin plant there that is producing the new F-35 Fighter. Designed with the entire battle space in mind, the F-35 is the most flexible, technologically sophisticated, multirole fighter ever built. This amazing supersonic aircraft represents a quantum leap in air dominance capability. Not only that, it also secures high-tech, high-skill jobs for hundreds of thousands of people worldwide. We were honored to see the first two jets that will be coming to Hill AFB in September as part of the 72 that will eventually be stationed here. **AS ALWAYS, WE ARE HONORED TO SERVE YOU.** 🇺🇸

ECONOMIC IMPACT

of Veterans Who Complete Certificate and Degree Programs

Adapted with permission by the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE)

When considering the short-term investment such as tuitions and targeted programs — e.g., Veterans services and the long-term impacts on subsequent contributions back into the state's tax revenues — then education is one of the best uses of state and local tax revenues.

Data from the American Communities Survey provided estimates for wages, unemployment and poverty rate by educational attainment for the Utah population 25 and older (See Table 1).

Based on a reported 4,473 Veterans served by USHE institutions in the 2013-2014 academic year, and assuming the same proportionate rate of degrees awarded to reach Utah's Goal of 66% of all adults (ages 25-35) earning a certificate or degree by the year 2020, then it is estimated that the incremental wage increase for these Veterans would be approximately \$47 million per year and the annual increase to state and local tax revenues would be approximately \$4.6 million (See Table 2). If all Veterans enrolled in USHE institutions completed a program of study (100% of those enrolled) at approximately the same



Table 1. American Communities Survey 2013
Utah One Year Estimates

Utah 2013 ACS	Median Wages	Unemployment	Poverty
Less than H.S.	\$22,290	4.2%	24%
High School	\$27,868	4.3%	12%
Some College or Assoc. Degree	\$31,843	2.4%	8%
Bachelor's Degree	\$44,668	2.2%	5%
Graduate or Prof. Degree	\$61,774	1.8%	2%

Table 2. Economic Impact with 66% Completion

Degree Attainment	Wage Dif. from H.S. diploma	Degree mix	Veteran (4,473)	Added Annual Wage	Added Annual Tax Revenue
Less than H.S.	-\$5,576				
High School	\$0				
Certificates	\$3,975	8%	358	\$1,423,050	\$140,313
Associate Degree	\$3,975	14%	626	\$2,488,350	\$245,351
Bachelor's Degree	\$16,800	31%	1,387	\$23,301,600	\$2,297,538
Graduate or Prof. Degree	\$33,906	13%	581	\$19,699,386	\$1,942,359
TOTAL		66%	2,952	\$46,912,386	\$4,625,561

mix as the USHE goal then increase to annual wages grows to over \$71 million per year and the additional state and local tax revenues is estimated

Outreach, Websites, Claims Assistance, Events, and Resources



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

veterans.utah.gov

Register your information with the Veterans Information System:
uvisreg.utah.gov/vtsreg/public/Register



CLAIMS ASSISTANCE CALENDAR

veterans.utah.gov/outreach-calendar

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

veterans.utah.gov/events-calendar



COORDINATION OF VETERANS SERVICES

veterans.utah.gov/coordination-of-veteran-services

Upcoming Events—veterans.utah.gov/events-calendar

SEPTEMBER

Monday–Sunday 7–13 September

Salt Lake City Navy Week
Various times and places TBD

Tuesday 8 September • 1000 – 1200

Milford City Veterans Day
Milford City Office Building

Friday 11 September

Utah State Fair Military Appreciation Day

Saturday 12 September • 0900 – 1400

Homeless Veterans Stand-Down
Gallivan Center Plaza

Friday 18 September

Utah POW / MIA Day TBD

Saturday 19 September • 1000 – 1300

Utah National Guard Governor's Day
Camp Williams, Bluffdale

Tuesday–Wednesday 22, 23 September 0830 – 1630

Boots to Business ReBoot
Salt Lake County Complex
2001 So. State St./So. Building, S1-950

NOVEMBER

November 1 – February 1, 2016

POW Victory From Traveling Exhibit
Ft. Douglas Museum

Tuesday 3 November • 1000

Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal
Ceremony • Capitol Rotunda

Wednesday 11 November • 1400 – 1600

Veterans Day Ceremony • Capitol Rotunda

4,473 Veterans

served by USHE institutions in 2013–14
will go on to earn

\$47 million annually

in increased wages.

at over \$7 million per year when compared to expected contributions for these same people if their degree attainment stayed at a high school diploma (See Table 3). 🇺🇸



Table 3. Economic Impact with 100% Completion

Degree Attainment	Wage Dif. from H.S. diploma	Degree mix	Veteran (4,473)	Added Annual Wage	Added Annual Tax Revenue
Less than H.S.	-\$5,578				
High School	\$0				
Certificates	\$3,975	12%	542	\$2,154,450	\$212,429
Associate Degree	\$3,975	21%	949	\$3,772,275	\$371,946
Bachelor's Degree	\$16,800	47%	2,101	\$35,296,800	\$3,480,264
Graduate or Prof. Degree	\$33,906	20%	881	\$29,871,186	\$2,945,299
TOTAL		100%	4,473	\$71,094,711	\$7,009,939

The entire survey can be found at: <http://higheredutah.org/the-economic-impact-of-veterans-who-complete-college/>



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH VETERANS CENTER

Located in the Olpin Union—all Veterans, particularly University of Utah Vets, are welcome

<http://veteranscenter.utah.edu/>




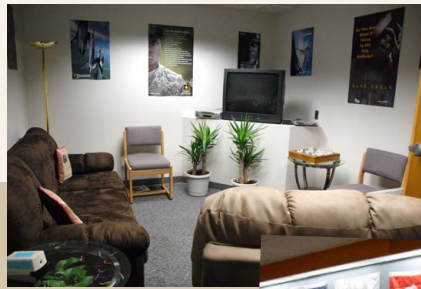
By Roger Perkins, Director

The University of Utah houses one of the largest Veteran Centers in the U.S. The Veteran Support Center was founded in 2011 with the mission of assisting student Veterans in graduating from the university with as little difficulty as possible. Since then the Center has seen around 1,000 Veterans graduate and move on to continue contributing to our nation.

In 2013, thanks to a generous donation from a Marine Veteran, the Center moved into a 2,400 square foot facility that houses a computer lab, and offers counseling on VA programs as well as psychological counseling. You will find academic and career advisors, GI Bill management, and even a quiet study area and "day room" to relax and have a cup of "Joe." This year we served an average of 12 student Veterans daily, and provide small scholarships to assist student Veterans who do not receive the GI Bill (approximately 30% of our population). That number does not include the Joe's who just stopped in for a cup and a break!

The most important service offered is a place where Veterans can come and be with other Vets who "get it." Holding a bull session with people you don't have to explain acronyms to goes a long way toward making Veterans feel welcome and also helping them with problems that arise during the school year. Vets tutor each other, babysit for each other, help with moving, or help that person with a deeper problem understand that it's OK to get help. Once a week, the VA provides a combat Veteran who is also a trained psychologist to help those who need deeper assistance. This is in addition to the counseling and disability services offered on campus.

In addition to delivering services to student Veterans, the Center also presents the annual Veterans Day Commemoration to honor 11 Utahans who have served with distinction. This year will make our 18th annual ceremony. Thanks to the generous support of Zions Bank, the VSC also honors the Student Veteran of the Year with a cash reward. For more information go to <http://veteransday.utah.edu/>. 



SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE VETERANS SERVICES

*Considered a national model for our one-stop
comprehensive support services for veterans*

<http://www.slcc.edu/veterans>

By Darlene Head, Manager, Veterans Services

Armed Service Veterans and their dependents will find a variety of support and assistance at Salt Lake Community College (SLCC). We honor the service given our country, and we are ready to assist our 1,200 Veterans and dependents at the School of Applied Technology (SAT) or who attend the traditional college degree programs.

SLCC has earned the distinction as a "Military-Friendly School" by G.I. Jobs for several years, ranked "Top Military School" through Military Advanced Education, and achieved the top 10 "Best for Vets" in *Military Times*.

Veterans Centers are located on the Taylorsville Redwood Campus and South City Campus. An Outreach School Certifying Official is available at the West Valley, Jordan, Miller, and WestPoint campuses. Our staff, including six certifying officials, 12 Veteran work-study employees, and outreach support staff is ready to help students navigate the college and the VA systems.

The doors of our main center at the Taylorsville Redwood Campus opened February 2008. It is considered a national model for its one-stop comprehensive support services and features a lounge, computer lab, and free printing. All are welcome to study, relax, and receive additional support services.

Our dedicated staff at Taylorsville Redwood and South City Campus:

- **Mike Foster**, a VA Benefits employee, is our full-time VetSuccess on-campus counselor. He is ready to assist Veterans in exploring various majors and the job market, navigating the VA benefits system, preparing resumes, and other support.
- **Aaron Ahern**, a VA Health Care employee, assists students through the VITAL program grant. Aaron helps Veterans register for health benefits, navigate the health-care system, and provides other support to members in completing their education.
- **Dan Czech**, Veterans Upward Bound counselor, offers free tutoring services to new Veterans in Math, English, and Computer Science.
- **Mary Keinz** is our Veterans Accessibility Advisor (DRC) and Veterans Club advisor. She assists with providing additional support services as needed.
- **Danny Sanchez** is our Veterans Academic Advisor and is located in our center one day a week and is available four days in his other office.

We welcome all service members and dependents attending SLCC to use the Veterans Center and its resources. The Center is a gift from the college to our Veterans in gratitude for your service to our country. 🇺🇸



Facebook: "SLCC
Veterans Services,"
virtual preview Center



YouTube video:
SLCC Veterans
Center Extended



DIXIE STATE UNIVERSITY VETERANS SERVICES

DSU will increase the atmosphere of support, gratitude, and awareness of those who raised their arms in pledge to the service of this country

<http://dixie.edu/veterans/>



By Steve Roberts, Veterans Compliance Coordinator

Nestled among the majestic southern Utah desert vistas in St. George lies Dixie State University (DSU), home to the DSU Veterans Club and more than 200 VA educational benefit recipients. The relatively recent transition from state college to university status has produced growth in Veteran student, military student, and associated dependent registration. The Veterans are supported at DSU by its Veteran Service staff, which includes a full-time staff Veterans Compliance Coordinator, a work-study student worker, and the DSU Veterans Club — all dedicated to serving Veteran students, military students, and their respective families.

The DSU Veterans Club promotes Veteran and military student awareness and provides resource coordination, which includes compiling contact information of available Veteran resources in the community and on campus.

Anthony Cirrito serves as the DSU Veterans Club president along with Holly Bateman, who serves as the VP for the 2015-2016 school year. The Club and the Veterans Service Office was honored to host the successful and first “Southern Utah Veterans Summit” on 23 April, which was sponsored by the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs, the Utah Department of Workforce Services, and the Utah System of Higher Education. Participants, which included staff, faculty and administrators from DSU and surrounding universities and colleges, enjoyed multiple educational presentations concerning Veteran issues on campus. They also had the opportunity to share “best practices” that can be adjusted and implemented as part of Veteran support programs at individual institutions.

The DSU Veterans support staff has prioritized the acquisition of a fully- functioning Veterans Center on campus. This Center will be a one-stop shop for Veteran

students, and will include full-time support staff, a study and lounge area, and computer(s) and printer availability. The need for a physical and full-service Veterans Center has been reinforced through means of a recent campus survey of student Veterans. That goal is the driving force behind bringing this awareness to the administration and student body politic.

The Club has already begun to coordinate a temporary Center with the help of the Business Department, (which is also a sponsor of the campus ROTC), that provides a shared space for weekly Club meetings. Room 135 in the UDVAR-Hazy Business Building is now the new temporary “Veterans Center Meeting Room.” Through Business Department donations, a local furniture store donation, and school surplus property donations, the room is furnished with two computers, a printer, desk, new couch, TV with cable, and chairs. This room, which is shared by business students, is a start for a full-service Veterans Center and a gathering place for Veteran students and club meeting place. The Center is already being used for tutoring and networking as well a space in which fellow Veterans and VA benefited dependents can gather to study, decompress, and socialize. The Club is confident that the future expansion of a full-service Veterans Center will come to fruition. Multiple studies have deemed that such facilities are critical for Veteran success on campuses.

Priorities for the success of Veterans on campus will continue to include our “Military Friendly” school status, individual mentoring, tutoring assistance, and staff aid and support for educational assistance programs. It is our hope that with the support of our Veteran support staff and DSU Veterans Club, DSU will climb higher on the Veteran support ladder — increasing the atmosphere of support, gratitude, and awareness of those who raised their arms in pledge to the service of this country. 🇺🇸

**YOU
SERVED
US ... IT'S
OUR TURN
TO SERVE
YOU!**

UtahStateUniversity

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY VETERANS SERVICES

*Created to assist student veterans with
transition from military to student life*

<http://www.usu.edu/veterans>

*By Tony Flores, Program Coordinator, Veterans
Resource Office*

The Utah State University's Veterans Resource Office (VRO) was created to assist USU student Veterans and military members with their transition from military to student life. The VRO serves as the one stop for Veterans, military personnel, and family members who need information or assistance, whether it is regarding their VA benefits, USU related topics, or civilian matters. The VRO has created a space where anyone with a military-related background can come and network. Working with other university services we have created tutoring and study programs to help students overcome academic barriers, develop study skills, and assist them in meeting their academic goals.

The VRO lounge is open to students for a quiet place to study, socialize, or just relax between classes. We have added two computers for student use along with free printing. Our USU Veterans Association has also set up an honor snack and drink system available in the lounge.

The VRO's goals are:

- Assist individuals with the transition from service to academic life
- Educate individuals about financial resources available to students and Veterans
- Advocate on behalf of students when necessary
- Collaborate with other University and community entities to provide resources and opportunities for Veteran students
- Establish a mentoring program utilizing fellow students and faculty
- Educate the campus and community on Veterans affairs
- Most importantly assist individuals in achieving their education and professional goals

For additional information or questions please contact us at (435)797-7886 or veteransresources@usu.edu. 🇺🇸



STAFF:

Program Coordinator,
SCO: Tony Flores

School Certifying Official:
Jake Falcon

School Certifying Official:
Kellie Crowley

VA Work-study: Ivan
Cherry

VA Work-study: James
Stratton

VA Work-study: Austin
Hammer

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE AND ITS CENTER FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY SERVICES (CVMS)

Our Center's goal is about helping students realize their potential and connecting them with the resources available to them

<https://www.westminstercollege.edu>

By Sylvia O'Hara, Director, CVMS

Westminster College opened the doors to its first-ever Center for Veterans and Military Services (CVMS) on 19 August.

"We are excited to announce the creation of a Center that will support our student Veterans and their families," said Steve Morgan, Westminster president. "The Center is long overdue, and we are extremely appreciative to Westminster trustee, alumna, and U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Kim T. Adamson and trustee O. Wood Moyle of the R. Harold Burton Foundation for their support of our military students. We are also pleased to welcome Sylvia O'Hara, a Veteran herself, in this new position. Her experience and dedication will help provide a welcoming environment to those who have served or will serve their country."

The 1,100-square-foot space provides service members and student Veterans a space to study, lounge, and connect with fellow Veterans; it's a place to build community. The Center is intended to be a central location where student Veterans can ask questions ranging from how to initiate GI Bill benefits to how to be involved with one of many local non-profit organizations.

The Center will also act as a resource for the campus community regarding questions about the military and Veteran culture.

The opening of the CVMS will help support approximately 100 student Veterans and military family members currently attending Westminster College. The College also has approximately 90 students enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program who will go on to serve in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines upon graduation and officer commissioning.

I truly believe Veterans already have the skills they need to succeed. Through the creation of the new Center, they will now have ample community and campus support. 🇺🇸



WESTMINSTER
SALT LAKE CITY • UTAH

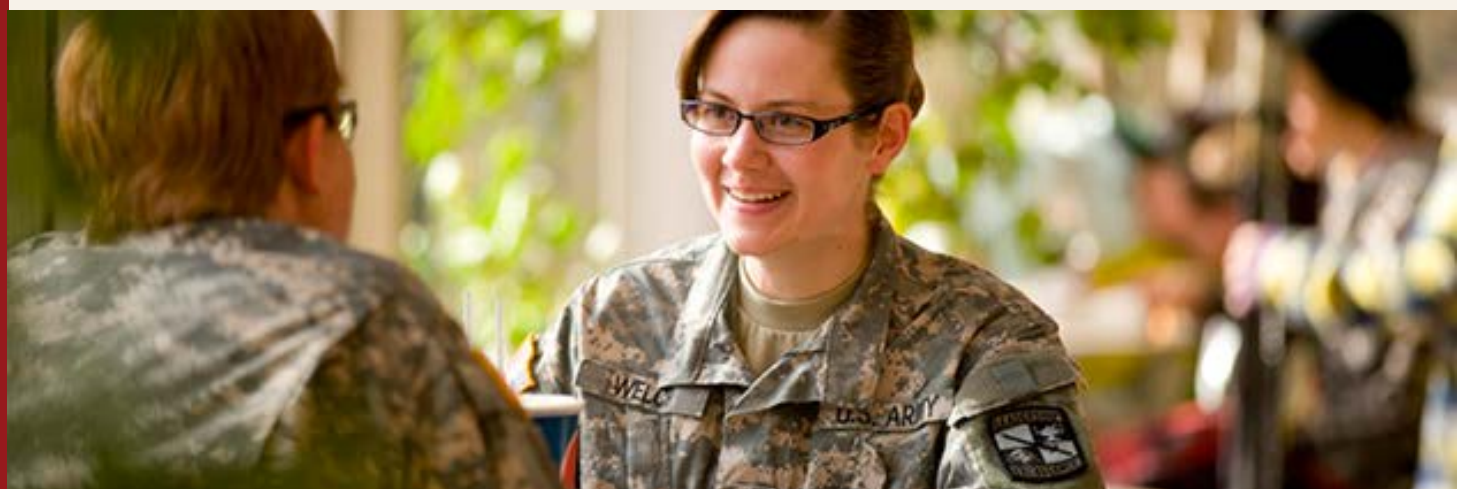


Sylvia O'Hara, Director and Veteran



Westminster College welcomes the community to attend the ribbon cutting and official opening of the CVMS on 11 September from 1300 to 1500.

Please RSVP to Claire Martinez at cmartinez@westminstercollege.edu.



OGDEN WEBER TECH COLLEGE VETERANS SERVICES

All veterans, along with spouses and children with VA benefits, are welcome and can expect to receive professional, courteous, and compassionate support while pursuing their educational goals

<http://www.owatc.edu/current-students/veterans-center/>

By Scott Teuscher, Veteran Services Counselor

Ogden-Weber Tech College has offered hands-on technical education since 1971. The beautiful main campus and the Business Depot Ogden offer convenient schedules, competency-based learning, and training opportunities in high-demand fields. With more than 300 technical-skills courses in more than 40 employment categories, the College serves 6,000+ students annually. The open enrollment model allows students to get started in our technical programs at several points throughout the year, with some programs starting every Monday. The college accepts credits from all accredited institutions as well as transfer credits based on relevant military experience and training. Most programs at the College take less than a year to finish, and students have a 94% job placement rate upon completing their program.

Ogden-Weber Tech College honors all who have served, and continue to serve, in the military. All Veterans and their family with VA benefits, are welcome and can expect to receive professional and compassionate support while pursuing their educational goals. The Ogden-Weber Tech College Veterans Service Center is a place where Veterans can connect with their peers, access resources specifically designed for Veteran students, and build a community within the college. For the last three years we ranked nationally as Best for Veterans, career, and technical schools, and have been recognized as a Military Friendly Institution. The Center opened in 2013 and has served hundreds of Veterans and active military members. You can receive one-on-one assistance from the Veteran Services Counselor to help with enrollment and application processes, schedule a tour, or for help applying for your VA benefits. To schedule an appointment, call 801-627-8300 or 801-627-8462. 🇺🇸



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY VETERANS SERVICES

Contact our office before applying for benefits or requesting military transcripts to assure that the process is as smooth as possible

<https://www.uvu.edu/veterans/>



By Spencer Ebert, VA School Certifying Official and Veterans Coordinator – Veteran Services

Moving forward into the 2015-2016 academic year, Utah Valley University continues its tradition of providing stellar service to hundreds of Veterans and their families. This year UVU will celebrate its long-awaited Veteran Student Success Center, opening later this Fall. The center will create new space for study and meditation areas, allow for the addition of work-studies to assist students with questions, and bring Veterans Affairs, healthcare, and other representatives closer to those who need it.

UVU leaders recognize that attending college can be a large sacrifice and that university and VA information can be difficult to navigate. Students that choose to attend and meet with coordinators in UVU Veteran Services can expect to find clear direction and devoted help in overcoming barriers to school attendance, especially regarding the GI Bill, but also throughout their entire university experience — from admissions to graduation. 🇺🇸

The State Approving Agency (SAA) For Veterans Education

By Brad Wilkinson, Acting Director, Utah SAA

What Does an SAA Do?

An SSA's mission is to ensure that every eligible Veteran, Reservist/National Guard member, and other eligible persons are afforded the opportunity to pursue their educational or vocational program goals to their full potential. The SAA does this by approving the quality of education and training programs under State and Federal criteria.

When Did They Start — and Why?

SAA's were created during the early days of the World War II "GI Bill of Rights." Congress decided that each State should designate an agency to determine which education programs were appropriate for Veterans to enroll in and use their GI Bill benefits. However, less than honorable individuals were creating "colleges" in their garages to draw Veterans in, receive their benefit money, and issue a worthless diploma. Congress wanted this stopped, and thus tasked SAAs with the approval process.

How to Acquire and Use Your Educational Benefit

The Utah SAA works in cooperation with School Certifying Officials (SCOs) on their respective campuses to assist eligible persons through the process of fulfilling their educational opportunities. The process is basically:

1. Choose the proper school and type of training you desire that is approved for VA benefits.
2. Apply for your VA education benefits.
 - Apply online if you know which benefit you want to use
 - Visit your nearest VA regional office to apply in person



- Consult with the SCO at the school of your choice. The SCO has application forms and can help you apply; this speeds up the process
- Call 1-888-GI BILL-1 (888-442-4551) to have the application mailed to you.

3. Receive your Certificate of Eligibility
4. Enroll in your school and complete the VA's Web Automated Verification of Eligibility (WAVE) each month to continue to receive your monthly benefits payments.

In Utah

Senate Bill 68 directed The Board of Regents to provide Veterans a "walk-in center or services at each institution of higher education." Most of the Institutions of Higher Learning have complied and are highlighted in this newsletter.

The upgraded VA website includes a **Choose a School** link to assist you in selecting a school. It also has a pamphlet titled *Factors to Consider When Choosing a School* — a good place to start, and the **Comparison Chart/Payment Rates** breaks down the different Chapters of the GI Bill, how payments are made, and types of programs allowed. The **GI Bill Comparison Tool** has a search function where you can enter your type of benefits and the school name or employer (for OJT and Apprenticeships) and get your estimated benefits. More information can be found at: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/> or <http://www.veterans.utah.gov/education/>. 📄

National Wheelchair Games

Looking Forward

to the 36th National Wheelchair Games in Salt Lake City!

By Jill Atwood, Chief Communications Officer, VA Salt Lake City HCS

Local Wheelchair Athletes Boasting Serious “Bling” Following Dallas Games

Most of them were just happy to be competing let alone bringing home a medal; but, all four of our athletes did medal . . . and then some. Randy Knight, Mike Johnson, Happy Barton, and Kerry Conway won a combined 12 medals during the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Dallas. They competed in archery, weightlifting, swimming, boccia ball, slalom, bowling, shooting and handcycling. Now, these fab four Vets have next year on their minds as VA Salt Lake City gets ready to host “Games Elevated” in Salt Lake City. Mark 26 June to 2 July on your calendars because the torch has been officially passed. For more information on participating, Veteran or employee, contact Curtis Ivins at 801-582-1565 ext. 1576.

First Time is the Charm for Utah Veteran

For Randy Knight, it's not about winning; it's about competing and trying something new. The 64 year old Air Force Veteran from Salt Lake City is fairly new to life in a wheelchair and very new to adaptive sports. A motorcycle accident resulted in paralysis in 2012. He was depressed and just sitting around until he decided it was time live again. He admits he is not in the shape in which he needs to be to compete in some of the sports, but boccia ball is right up his alley. It's all about touch and strategy. “This is the easiest thing to do while training and getting up to strength, I'm still learning and getting lots of advice from the other athletes,” Randy commented. This is only the second time he's played boccia. Randy was a dog handler in the Air Force from 1971-1975, and is well known in Utah for his Veterans advocacy — serving as State Adjutant General for the American Legion for seven years. He loves service, these Games, and his fellow Veterans. Randy says “I met so many interesting people . . . and it was nice to talk with folks you have something in common with. Some of them have far greater disabilities than me and they inspire me to be better.” It was just before 1000 hours and down to the wire. Randy had just four shots left and bronze hung in the balance. He didn't get the throws he needed and missed the medal by two points. “But I sure had fun,” Randy stated, “it was intense, I loved it.” You can call it beginner's luck but Randy calls it good incentive to train harder and compete next year. 🏆

Randy Knight displays his boccia ball skills.



Mike Johnson and son

Kerry Conway

Happy Barton

NATIONAL ABILITY CENTER

**Serving veterans with disabilities
and their families through sport,
recreation, and education programs**

By Jeremy Housekeeper, Group and Military Programs Manager, National Ability Center

The National Ability Center extends our deepest thanks to the Jordanelle State Park for hosting the first ever 5k and Fun Run on 15 August 2015, an event to benefit military programs at the National Ability Center. This inaugural event drew a total of 58 runners to run in support of life-changing programs for injured soldiers and Veterans and their families. Since 1985, the National Ability Center has served thousands of Veterans with disabilities and their families through sport, recreation, and education programs that build self-esteem, confidence, and lifetime skills. These programs are offered throughout the year and reach more than 900 service-related individuals and their family members annually.

If you are interested in participating in or supporting programs for military service members at the National Ability Center, please visit our website or call to arrange a visit to our facility or book a lesson. 🇺🇸



www.discovernac.org • 435-649-3991



Successful Veteran Summit



By Rachael Stewart, Workforce Education & Training Program Manager, Department of Workforce Services

A Veterans Education Summit was held on 23 April and hosted by Dixie State University to assist educational staff in understanding the unique experiences of Veteran students and included sessions on:

- obtaining credit for military experience
- making the transition from the military to the classroom
- recent legislation impacting schools and Veterans
- resources and programs for Veterans
- PTSD

A student / faculty panel was held for attendees to ask questions, and student Veteran Centers across the state were highlighted.

The information provided at the summit was well received by attendees, which included faculty, department chairs, administrators, student services staff, Veterans coordinators, academic counselors and advisors, and others interested in helping Veterans succeed in college.

The summit was organized by representatives from the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs, the Utah College of Applied Technology, the Utah System of Higher Education, and the Utah Department of Workforce Services.

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program



By Seth Lund, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

The VR&E program assists Veterans with service-connected disabilities prepare for, obtain, and maintain suitable employment, and live as independently as possible. VR&E assists Service members and Veterans with personalized counseling and support, career guidance, advice on maximizing VA benefits, and goal setting. Specific VR&E services are selected based on individual employment needs, labor market trends and other important factors.

You may receive vocational rehabilitation and employment services to help with job training,

employment accommodations, resume development, and job seeking skills coaching. Other services assist Veterans in starting their own businesses or independent living services for those who are severely disabled and unable to work in traditional employment.

A good candidate for VR&E services would be a Veteran with service-connected disabilities who has been unable or has had difficulty obtaining and maintaining suitable employment. VR&E provides comprehensive, individualized assessments to develop a plan to meet the employment or independent living needs for each individual. For more information please visit the VA's website at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/>. 🇺🇸

MISSING IN AMERICA CEREMONY—

A final tribute and resting place

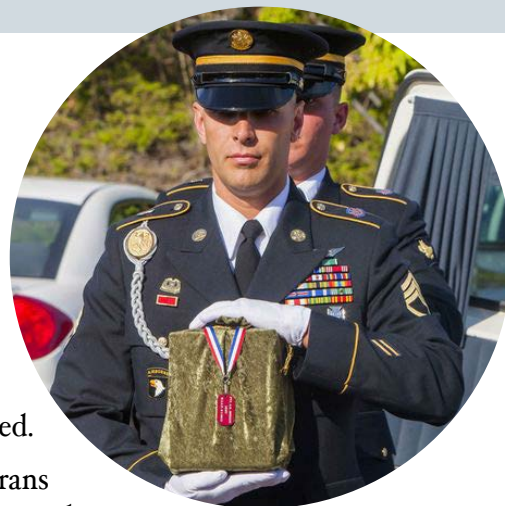
By Dennis McFall, Deputy Director, Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs

On Saturday, 1 August, a touching and emotional service was held at the Utah Veterans Memorial Park (Utah Veterans Cemetery) honoring 22 Veterans. Twenty of these Veterans were “unclaimed” and their remains had rested on the shelves of various mortuaries for years. Two were from families who wanted them included in the service.

Under the Missing in America Veterans Recovery program, a team of volunteers seeks out the unclaimed remains of Veterans and organizes and carries out a reverent and long-overdue memorial service honoring their lives. A large crowd, estimated at nearly 400, was on hand to pay tribute to service members from the Army, Air Force, and Navy. United States flags were folded and presented to select Veterans on hand in a final tribute to their service. Each urn was individually carried into the Chapel by an Honor Guard of service men

and women representing the branch of service to which the Veteran belonged.

Fifty nine Veterans have been so interred at the Utah Veterans Cemetery in the past four years, and additional Veterans will be honored and interred as their remains are located and identified. The Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs is honored to have these services at the cemetery and will continue to do so. Our thanks to Crystal and Roger Graves, Utah State Coordinators for the Missing in America Program, to Arnold Warner and the cemetery staff, and all the fine men and women who work (volunteer their time and efforts) diligently and respectfully to assure our “lost or forgotten” Veterans receive a final tribute and resting place. 🇺🇸



UTAH KOREAN WAR VETERANS HONORED BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

By Kim Wixon, State Officer, George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans Home



On 10 August 2015, the George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans Home hosted a ceremony celebrating the Veterans of the Korean Conflict. Consul General, Han Dong-man of the Republic of Korea — and Korean women dressed in their traditional costumes — presented the medals to Veterans and their families. This was the sixth time the Consul General had presented these medals. The Consul General spoke of the dedication and honor with which these Veterans had served. Their sacrifices have helped the Republic of Korea become an economic force in the world. This was the last “Ambassador for Peace Medal” ceremony that will be held in Ogden. 🇰🇷

SALT LAKE CITY VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION HAS A NEW DIRECTOR

By Adam B. Kinder, Change Management Agent (CMA) and Public Affairs Officer
Salt Lake and Ft. Harrison Regional Office



Loren Miller was appointed Director of the Salt Lake City VA Regional Office on 22 May 2015. He also serves as Director of the Fort Harrison VA Regional Office. He is responsible for administering non-medical VA benefits and services to 152,000 Utah Veterans and 99,750 Montana

Veterans and their families. Prior to this appointment, Miller was the Director of the Lincoln, Nebraska, VA Regional Office.

As Director of the Salt Lake City VA Regional Office, Miller is responsible for monthly monetary disbursements totaling more than \$36 million in compensation and pension benefits paid to 25,500 Utah Veterans, and more than \$21 million in compensation and pension benefits paid to 21,350 Montana Veterans and family members. He is also responsible for the Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) program for the Western United States, a National Call Center, the nation's only National Inquiry Routing and Information System (IRIS) Response Center, and the Salt Lake City Fiduciary Hub.

In his previous assignment as Director of the Lincoln VA Regional Office (appointed 3 August 2008), Miller was responsible for 350 full-time employees and administering approximately \$363 million in annual federal benefits to 148,000 Veterans and their dependents in 93 counties in Nebraska. He had responsibility for managing VA benefits to Veterans and their dependents, including disability compensation and pension, vocational rehabilitation, and fiduciary benefits. Prior to this position, Miller was the Assistant Director of the Salt Lake City VA Regional Office, managing

three Regional Offices in Utah, Montana, and Alaska. He was responsible for one of two national BDD sites, one of seven National Call Centers, the Western Area Fiduciary Hub, and finance operations for five Regional Offices.

A graduate from Brigham Young University, Miller received his BS degree in 1992 in Accounting. Upon graduation, he began his career with the VA Office of the Inspector General (VAOIG) in Seattle, Washington, as an auditor and was promoted several years later to Auditor-in-Charge. He spent six years with the VAOIG and came to the VA Regional Office in Salt Lake City as the Finance Officer in 1998, where he remained until 2003. Miller then was selected for an assignment as Lead Management Analyst with the Western Area Office in Phoenix, Arizona, before becoming the Assistant Director at the Salt Lake City Regional Office.

Loren Miller is a graduate of the VA's Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program (2010), Assistant Director Development Program, Federal Executive Institute (2007), and Leadership VA (2004). He has been an active member in many community associations, Veterans organizations, and the Boy Scouts of America. Miller was raised in a military family and is married to Cindy Rich, of Utah; they have four sons and three daughters. 🇺🇸



Guard Members Now Part of 101st Airborne Division

Integrating the active, Reserve, and National Guard components

Fifty-three Utah Guard members of the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade realigned to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) as Commander Maj. Gen. Gary J. Volesky conducted the 'Old Abe' patch ceremony at Tarbet Field on Camp Williams 19 June 2015.

"Today we get to welcome Soldiers from the Beehive State as they are assigned to the 101st Airborne Division Air Assault as part of the Army's multi-component-unit redesign," said Volesky. "This patching ceremony continues the progress that we have made over the past 14 years of completely integrating the active, Reserve, and National Guard components as we continue to prepare to deploy, fight, and win."

The multi-component unit (MCU) is a new and innovative concept to incorporate Reserve and National Guard elements to replace critical enablers cut from the active-duty structure due to budget constraints. These members realigned to the 101st Airborne Division, an active duty unit stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, as it converts to an MCU Division Headquarters that mans, trains, and equips U.S. Reserve (USAR) and Army National Guard (ARNG) elements.

The 300th Military Intelligence Brigade was selected by the division to capitalize on its expertise and considerable wartime experience gained during the War on Terrorism.

"They are the best that the United States Army has to offer with regards to military intelligence profession," said Utah National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton. "For a combat commander, there is nothing more important than actionable intelligence."

The 101st Airborne Division will become the first division headquarters in the Army to integrate fully the ARNG from soldiers from Wisconsin and Utah into their Modification Table of Organization and Equipment to close operational gaps in mission command capacity, and establish cohesive, fully capable headquarters that can execute assigned missions. The Division will also provide lessons learned and feedback setting favorable conditions for the MCU headquarters conversion of the remaining Army divisions.

The soldiers of the 300th MI, while realigning to the 101st, will remain part-time National Guard service members with duty here in Utah. These Utah intelligence specialists stand trained and ready to support the 101st in its future missions.

"The soldiers joining us today will be assigned to our Division's intelligence section and train with us for our next rendezvous with destiny," said Volesky. "We say intelligence drives operations — well, today the Screaming Eagles are going to put them in the driver's seat." 🇺🇸



Hill Encourages Future Engineers, Programmers

Helping students focus on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)

By Dana Rimington, *Hilltop Times* Correspondent
(adapted with Permission)

A group of seventh-graders from the Weber State University Prefreshman Engineering Program recently saw the Air Force behind the scenes for the first time. For most of them, it was eye-opening as they toured the explosive ordnance device area and facilities for pilot life support and emergency preparedness.

Roy Junior High School student Cameron McKay didn't expect to see so many types of explosives and admits he didn't realize engineering was such an integral part of the Air Force. "I thought I had to join the military to do that stuff, but after that trip, I've realized a lot of engineers are involved in the Air Force and now I think it's an option I'd like to look into," Cameron said.

STEM Program Manager Alison Sturgeon says that is a recurring comment she hears from students. "They don't even have a clue what it means to be an engineer or computer programmer for the Air Force because they don't have a connection to it, but that changes when they see it in action," Sturgeon said. "We hope to inspire many young students to continue studying math and science by giving them opportunities to see and hear the exciting and meaningful work engineers and scientists actually do."

Since the lack of a STEM workforce is considered to be a national security crisis, especially since the armed services have to hire U.S. citizens. Sturgeon says Hill AFB is taking an active role in supporting a K-12 STEM Outreach Program in the area and statewide. The base needs to hire more than 200 engineers and computer scientists each year to maintain and expand its workload.

The heavy focus on STEM at Hill AFB has picked up speed in the last several years, facilitating a myriad of STEM programs and competitions. Many are implemented through nearby school districts, such as Mission to Mars, where students simulate going on a manned mission to the planet Mars and build colonies, the popular FIRST and VEX robotics competitions, and the SeaPerch Underwater Robotics.

A few months ago, Hill AFB planned and provided support for the first Utah STEM Festival, with 15,000 people in attendance over three days. The Hill Aerospace Museum provided an F-16 cockpit for display and arranged for the Air Force Motion Simulator "Rapid Strike" to be a highlight of the event.

Hill AFB also offers programs each month at the base library for military families and oversees two STEM programs supported by grants: the STEM Outreach program currently funded by the National Defense Education Program, and STARBASE, a Department of Defense-funded program, a science camp for sixth-grade students.

"The State of Utah has made great strides to increase STEM awareness and provide funding, support and coordination for STEM activities," Sturgeon said. "In order to maximize our limited resources, we also coordinate efforts with the Utah State Office of Education, the Utah After-School Network, local school districts, advisory boards for higher education, industrial associations, and the Department of Workforce Services." Though results of the Air Force STEM push for students won't be seen for another five to 10 years, Sturgeon points out, "We are putting on this huge push in the state of Utah, and the hardest part of this job is determining the return on investment, but if we don't do anything, then it's definitely not going to get any better," Sturgeon said. 🇺🇸





UTAH VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Now a State Veterans Service Organization

By Dennis Howland

Utah Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) was officially presented its State Council Charter just prior to June's Welcome Home Parade.

The charter was presented by VVA Region 9 Director Dick Southern in ceremonies as part of the parade weekend. Officers were elected were:

- Dennis Howland (Northern Utah) as State President
- Craig Dickason (St. George) as Vice President
- Kim Wixon (Northern Utah) as Treasurer
- Dave Wilson (Northern Utah) as Chaplain

The Board of Directors includes St. George's Danny Greathouse, Jim Winkler, Bruce Raftree, James Judd, and Northern Utah's Terry Dunne, James Dooley, and Robert Porter.

Upcoming Activities

Utah's State Council and Chapter 961 and 1079 have announced several upcoming activities to honor all Veterans; some will be to raise funds for the Permanent Replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall Project, and others to honor all Veterans of peacetime and war and raise funds for VVA programs.

Chapter 961 meets the third Saturday of the month at St. George Elks Lodge at 1000, while Northern Utah Chapter 1079 meets at the South Ogden Senior Center the first Thursday at 1830. Anyone interested in the organization, membership, or membership in the auxiliary organization is welcome to attend.

September (various) — Several remembrance programs will be held for POW/MIAs and a program to honor a Gold Star Family.

November (various) — Members will be visiting classrooms to talk to our young students about the Vietnam War and their military service experiences.

7 November — the Vietnam Veterans of America will partner with the Fleet Reserve Association to host the 10th Annual Northern Utah Veterans Parade in Ogden. Parade lineup is at 0930, and parade start is 1111 at 31st Street and Washington Boulevard in Ogden. For parade applications email dennishowland@msn.com or call 801-389-1893.

7 November — a Veterans Dance will be hosted by the VVA and FRA – Eagles Lodge at 975 Wall Avenue in Ogden. The band is the incredible sound of "Two Weeks Notice." Hors d'oeuvres, great music, a salute to all Veterans ceremony, and special event drawings will take place. All Veterans and the public welcome; casual dress, dress uniforms, BDUs, coat and tie, come comfortable — just no tank tops or raggedy torn levis. Cost is \$25 per couple, and proceeds will go to the Vietnam Memorial Wall Project. The Ceremony is at 1930, and the dance at 2000. Info 801-389-1893.

7 December — Join us at the State Capitol Rotunda for the Wreaths

Across America
Ceremony and Pearl
Harbor Remembrance
Ceremony at 0900.

A Ceremony to place
wreath at the Vietnam
Memorial on Capitol
Hill follows the rotunda
program. 🇺🇸



REPLICA OF THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL

Will Have a Permanent Utah Home

It is anticipated that nearly 3 million people will visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., this year, but Utahans who lack the time or funds to travel to our nation's capital, will find a replica of the memorial within the next few months in Layton.

Layton City and Utah Vietnam Veterans of America officials have announced that Layton will become the permanent home to a large replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. The 360-foot long replica wall will be placed at the Layton Commons Park, 437 N. Wasatch Drive. It is 80 percent the size of the National Memorial.

The project is expected to cost about \$400,000 and will be funded through private donations, grants, and appropriations. This will be an incredible monument to Vietnam Veterans; it will be only the second replica of this size to have a permanent home in the U.S. It will give our Vietnam Veterans a place to remember and

honor their fallen comrades, and families to reflect on their loved ones lost to our War.

Construction on the wall is expected to begin in about a year. Personalized bricks, which will be set around the wall, are being sold to help pay for the project. However, donations of any type and amount are welcome. Approximately \$10,000 was raised at the "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Parade," Sounds of Freedom, in June in Layton, and fundraising is being done on a continuing basis. We hope to see support from community groups, Veterans organizations, and corporations from throughout Utah. The Memorial will belong to all of Utah, not just Layton, and to all Veterans. If each of Utah's 44,000 Vietnam Veterans donated just \$5.00 each, we would be well over half-way home. We appreciate any and all support, and there are several ways to donate to the Wall Project. For information contact Dennis Howland at 801-389-1893. 🇺🇸



If each of Utah's 44,000 Vietnam Veterans donated just \$5.00 each, we would be well over half-way home.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ 1— How do I make corrections to my military records?

To correct military records use form DD-149 (Application for Correction of Military Record). DD-149 forms may be obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs upon request, by calling toll-free 800-827-1000. Generally, DD-149 requests for correction of military records should be filed within three years after the discovery of the alleged error or injustice. However, boards for correction of military records may excuse failure to file within the three-year time limit if it is found to be in the interest of justice to do so. Veterans, survivors, or legal representatives of Veterans may file a DD-149 Applications for Correction of Military Records. There are many good reasons for correcting military records; DD-214 contains erroneous information, medals/decorations authorized but not received, weapons qualification record incorrect, promotions record/rank information outdated, satisfactory years/retirement points errors, service records having miscellaneous errors or omissions, and so forth.


FAQ 2 How do I get my disabled license plates or windshield placards?

Disabled license plates having the blue and white international symbol of accessibility decal may be obtained by submitting a TC-842 application form to Division of Motor Vehicles, accompanied by a certification from a licensed physician stating: (1) the disability limits or impairs one's ability to walk as defined in the 1991 Federal Uniform System for

Handicapped Parking, and (2) the time period the physician determines the disability will continue.

Disabled Veterans applying for Utah disability license plates should note that Veteran disability letters from the VA Regional Office are not acceptable evidence to Motor Vehicle offices. However, licensed physician certifications by VA doctors are acceptable evidence, provided they provide the same information as stated above.

Normal fees for plate transfer, registration, and property taxes still must be paid upon initial application and renewal of disability license plates. Upon request, one additional disability windshield placard may be issued to disabled persons applying for or already possessing disability special group license plates.

For more information, call the Division of Motor Vehicles toll-free at (800) DMV-UTAH [368-8824] 



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